Alternatives Considered in Detail Description of Alternatives; Alternative D

- protect the natural vegetation communities of the Substation Tract ACEC and Silver Sage Playa ACEC.

Some of the activity plans listed above may be consolidated into a single plan where two or more activities have activity plan needs in the same general area.

Sub-Alternative D

Proposed resource uses in Sub-Alternative D would be the same as for Alternative D in all respects except that there would be no livestock grazing. Therefore, no grazing preference would be proposed, no AMPs or CRMPs would be prepared, and no range improvements would be accomplished.

RELATIONSHIP OF ALTERNATIVES TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) GOALS

The alternatives considered in this RMP/EIS all would achieve the requirements of sections 101 and 102(1) of NEPA and other environmental laws and policies. Each of the alternatives is designed to use practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, but the emphasis is different in each alternative. Alternative A would place little emphasis on preservation of natural aspects of our national heritage and enhancement of the quality of renewable resources. Alternatives A, B, and D would limit the range of uses of the environment. Alternative C, the proposed Monument RMP, would attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment while preserving important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage.

TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative I
LANDS-Retention or Disposal	3,458 acres available for transfer by any appropriate method including agricultural entry, sale, or exchange.	35,957 acres available for transfer by any appropriate method including agricultural entry, sale, or exchange.	20,796 acres available for transfer by any appropriate method including agricultural entry, sale, or exchange.	1,385 acres available for transfer by any appropriate method including agricultural entry, sale, or exchange.	No change from D.
	No Carey Act or DLE applications are included in a transfer category.	44,337 acres available for transfer only in response to agricultural entry applications. This includes 5,330 acres of current DLE applications and 38,180 acres of current Carey Act applications. The Carey Act applica—	29,873 acres available for transfer only in response to agricultural entry applications. This includes 2,155 acres of current DLE applications and 24,415 acres of current Carey Act applications. The Carey Act applica-	4,414 acres available for transfer only in response to agricultural entry applications. This includes 3,109 acres of current DLE applications. No current Carey Act applications would be considered for transfer.	
			tions in the Lake Walcott area would not be con- sidered for transfer for agricultural development.		
			3,751 acres would be developed for agriculture and wildlife habitat by the Bureau of Reclamation.		
	Land important for livestock movement between allotments would be retained.	Land important for livestock movement between allotments would be retained.	Land important for livestock movement between allotments would be retained.	Land important for livestock movement between allotments would be retained.	
	87 Isolated Tracts would be retained for wildlife habitat values.	21 Isolated Tracts would be retained for wildlife habitat values.	92 Isolated Tracts would be retained for wildlife habitat values.	128 Isolated Tracts would be retained for wildlife habitat values.	
	Parcels essential to assure public access to BLM-administered public land would be retained.	Parcels essential to assure public access to BLM-administered public land would be retained.	Parcels essential to assure public access to BLM-administered public land would be retained.	Parcels essential to assure public access to BLM-administered public land would be retained.	

addressing conversions.

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)
SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative
WILDERNESS	No Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness by Congress.	the Raven's Eye and Little Deer WSAs would	The Raven's Eye and the Sand Butte WSAs would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness by Congress. This includes 87,902 acres.	All six WSAs in the planning area (Shale Butte, Raven's Eye, Little Deer, Sand Butte, Bear Den Butte, and Shoshone WSAs) would be recommended suitable for designation as wilderness by Congress. This includes 154,015 acres.	No change from D.
LIVESTOCK GRAZING	Grazing preference would be 97,562 AUMs.	Grazing preference would be 149,997 AUMs.	Grazing preference would be 142,879 AUMs.	Grazing preference would be 59,111 AUMs.	No livestock grazing would be authorized.
			acres would be in grazing	Approximately 905,246 acres would be in grazing allotments after allowing for land transfers and other uses. Proposed stocking rate would be 15.3 acres per AUM.	
	No new allotment management plans (AMPs) or cooperative resource management plans (CRMPs) would be developed.	New AMPs, CRMPs, or other appropriate plans would be developed for nine grazing allotments. These allotments are Antelope, Cedar Fields, East Minidoka, Gunnery, Kimama, Minidoka, Schodde, Shoshone, and Wildhorse.	New AMPs, CRMPs, or other appropriate plans would be developed for nine grazing allotments. These allotments are Antelope, Cedar Fields, East Minidoka, Gunnery, Kimama, Minidoka, Schodde, Shoshone, and Wildhorse.	New AMPs, CRMPs, or other appropriate plans would be developed for nine grazing allotments. These allotments are Antelope, Cedar Fields, East Minidoka, Gunnery, Kimama, Minidoka, Schodde, Shoshone, and Wildhorse.	
	An estimated 4,982 sheep AUMs would be converted to cattle AUMs in accordance with the Shoshone District Conversion Policy. For Alternative A, this involves only those allotments with existing AMPs specifically	An estimated 22,860 sheep AUMs would be converted to cattle AUMs in accordance with the Shoshone District Conversion Policy.	An estimated 21,910 sheep AUMs would be converted to cattle AUMs in accordance with the Shoshone District Conversion Policy.	An estimated 8,529 sheep AUMs would be converted to cattle AUMs in accordance with the Shoshone District Conversion Policy.	

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.) SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative D
LIVESTOCK	No changes from existing seasons of use would be proposed.	No changes from existing seasons of use would be proposed since no resource conflicts were identified that would be resolved by such changes. However, changes in season of use could be made in the future after considering environmental effects in the NEPA process.	No changes from existing seasons of use would be proposed since no resource conflicts were identified that would be resolved by such changes. However, changes in season of use could be made in the future after considering environmental effects in the NEPA process.	No changes from existing seasons of use would be proposed since no resource conflicts were identified that would be resolved by such changes. However, changes in season of use could be made in the future after considering environmental effects in the NEPA process.	
	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 821 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced to exclude livestock from wildlife habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 821 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced to exclude livestock from wildlife habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 821 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced to exclude livestock from wildlife habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 821 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced to exclude livestock from wildlife habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	
	No new areas for live- stock grazing outside of existing allotments would be proposed.	No new areas for live- stock grazing outside of existing allotments would be proposed.	No new areas for live- stock grazing outside of existing allotments would be proposed.	No new areas for live- stock grazing outside of existing allotments would be proposed.	
RANGE IMPROVEMENTS	Brush control would be constrained as discussed in Appendix D to protect wildlife habitat and soils. Constraints would include treatment in irregular or mosaic patterns, and resting from livestock grazing after treatment.	would be constrained as discussed in Appendix D to protect wildlife habitat and soils.	Brush control and seeding would be constrained as discussed in Appendix D to protect wildlife habitat and soils. Constraints would include treatment in irregular or mosaic patterns, including forb and shrub seed in seedings as appropriate, and resting from livestock grazing after treatment.	would be constrained as discussed in Appendix D to protect wildlife habitat and soils.	ments.

after treatment.

after treatment.

planned at this time.

planned at this time.

TABLE 2 1 (Cont.)

SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative
RANGE IMPROVE- MENTS (Cont.)	Proposed range improve- ment is 13,000 acres brush control. This is	Proposed range improve- ments are:	Proposed range improvements are:	Proposed range improve- ments are:	
	an ongoing project covered by an existing AMP.	55,500 acres of reseeding 19,000 acres of brush control 55 miles of fence 100 miles of pipeline 124 water troughs 9 wells 27 cattleguards 17 miles of road construction	25,500 acres of reseeding 19,000 acres of brush control 53 miles of fence 74 miles of pipeline 110 water troughs 9 wells 24 cattleguards 4 miles of road	13,000 acres of brush control 38 miles of fence 50 miles of pipeline 83 water troughs 5 wells 22 cattleguards 4 miles of road construction	
			construction 		
RE MANAGEMENT	Continue applying standard operating procedures discussed in Appendix B.	In addition to standard operating procedures discussed in Appendix B, maintain 60 miles of existing roads to improve access for fire suppression equipment and provide secure fuel breaks. Roads would be maintained in Fire Ecology Zone 1 and the contiguous public land between Shoshone and Wendell (refer to Map 6). Other practices to reduce wildfire size could be considered as availability and effectiveness are demonstrated.	In addition to standard operating procedures discussed in Appendix B, maintain 100 miles of existing roads to improve access for fire suppression equipment and provide secure fuel breaks. Roads would be maintained in Fire Ecology Zones 1, 2, and 3 (refer to Map 6). Other practices to reduce wildfire size could be considered as availability and effectiveness are demonstrated.	considered as avail- ability and effectiveness	No change from D.
	Prescribed fire may be used as a tool in 13,000 acres proposed for brush control. In other areas it may be used if found to be environmentally acceptable, but use of prescribed fire is not	Prescribed fire may be used as a tool in 19,000 acres proposed for brush control. In other areas it may be used if found to be environmentally acceptable, but use of prescribed fire is not	acceptable, but use of	Prescribed fire may be used as a tool in 13,000 acres proposed for brush control. In other areas it may be used if found to be environmentally acceptable, but use of prescribed fire is not	

planned at this time.

planned at this time.

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)
SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative I
FIRE MANAGEMENT (Cont.)	•	Prescribed fire would not be used on 233 acres in Vineyard Creek ACEC and Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs ACEC.	Prescribed fire would not be used on 677 acres in Substation Tract ACEC, Vineyard Creek ACEC, and Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs ACEC.	Prescribed fire would not be used on 687 acres in Substation Tract ACEC, Silver Sage Playa ACEC, Vineyard Creek ACEC, and Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs ACEC.	
	The entire planning area would be covered by a limited suppression plan.	under full fire sup-	181,086 acres would be under full fire suppression. The other 997,903 acres would be covered by a limited suppression plan.	202,500 acres would be under full fire suppression. The other 976,489 acres would be covered by a limited suppression plan.	
SOIL EROSION	Fragile soils in the Lake Walcott area would not be developed for agri- culture.	If developed for agri- culture as proposed, the fragile soils in the Lake Walcott area will experi- ence increased erosion.	Walcott area would not be developed for agri-	Fragile soils in the Lake Walcott area would not be developed for agri- culture.	
	ORV use would be restricted on 804 acres to protect fragile soils	ORV use would be re- stricted on 2,585 acres to protect fragile soils	ORV use would be re- stricted on 2,585 acres to protect fragile soils	ORV use would be restricted on 2,939 acres to protect fragile soils	
		limited on 2,240 acres	Surface disturbance in fire suppression would be limited on 2,240 acres to protect fragile soils.	Surface disturbance in fire suppression would be limited on 2,240 acres to protect fragile soils.	
	150 acres would be seeded to stabilize active sand dunes.	bilized where feasible.	problems would be sta- bilized where feasible.	Areas with severe erosion problems would be sta- bilized where feasible. 150 acres would be seeded to stabilize active sand dunes.	· ·
WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT	87 tracts would be in- cluded in the Isolated Tracts HMP and managed for wildlife habitat.	21 tracts would be in- cluded in the Isolated Tracts HMP and managed for wildlife habitat.	92 tracts would be in- cluded in the Isolated Tracts HMP and managed for wildlife habitat.	128 tracts would be in- cluded in the Isolated Tracts HMP and managed for wildlife habitat.	No change from D.

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)

SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative D
WILDLIFE HABITAT (Cont.)		acres of pronghorn winter range, 60,000 acres of summer pronghorn	acres of pronghorn winter range, 60,000 acres of summer pronghorn	HMPs would be developed for approximately 171,000 acres of pronghorn winter range, 60,000 acres of summer pronghorn habitat, and 67,000 acres of sage grouse habitat.	
·	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 545 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced specifically to exclude livestock from riparian habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 545 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced specifically to exclude livestock from riparian habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 545 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced specifically to exclude livestock from riparian habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	Nine miles of streambank along the Little Wood River have been fenced to exclude livestock. 545 acres of Isolated Tracts have been fenced specifically to exclude livestock from riparian habitat. Livestock would continue to be excluded from these areas.	
	Isolated Tracts con- taining substantial woody riparian vegetation are among the 87 included in the Isolated Tracts HMP.	Isolated Tracts containing substantial woody riparian vegetation are among the 21 included in the Isolated Tracts HMP.	or potentially containing substantial riparian habitat are among the 92	Isolated Tracts presently or potentially containing substantial riparian habitat are among the 128 included in the Isolated Tracts HMP.	
		Brush areas important to wildlife would be given priority for fire suppression.	Brush areas important to wildlife would be given priority for fire suppression.	Brush areas important to wildlife would be given priority for fire suppression.	
	Artificial nest structures would be placed for the ferruginous hawk, a candidate threatened species.	Artificial nest structures would be placed for the ferruginous hawk, a candidate threatened species.	Artificial nest structures would be placed for the ferruginous hawk, a candidate threatened species.	Artificial nest structures would be placed for the ferruginous hawk, a candidate threatened species.	
	The 87 Isolated Tracts would be maintained in habitat suitable to the Swainson's Hawk, a candidate threatened species.	The 21 Isolated Tracts would be maintained in habitat suitable to the Swainson's Hawk, a candidate threatened species.	The 92 Isolated Tracts would be maintained in habitat suitable to the Swainson's Hawk, a candidate threatened species.	The 128 Isolated Tracts would be maintained in habitat suitable to the Swainson's Hawk, a candidate threatened species.	

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)
SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative
WILDLIFE Artificial nest struc- HARTTAT tures would be placed on some of the 87 Isolated Tracts to benefit the burrowing owl, a sensitive species. Habitat of the Shoshone sculpin, a candidate endangered species, and Bliss Rapids snail, a candidate endangered species, would not receive the special management protection provided by ACEC designation.	Artificial nest structures would be placed on some of the 21 Isolated Tracts to benefit the burrowing owl, a sensitive species. Some burrowing owl habitat would be transferred from Federal ownership and converted to agriculture. This would be detrimental to the burrowing owl.	Artificial nest structures would be placed on some of the 92 Isolated Tracts to benefit the burrowing owl, a sensitive species. Some burrowing owl habitat would be transferred from Federal ownership and converted to agriculture. This would be detrimental to the burrowing owl.	Artificial nest structures would be placed on some of the 128 Isolated Tracts to benefit the burrowing owl, a sensitive species.		
	sculpin, a candidate endangered species, and Bliss Rapids snail, a candidate endangered species, would not receive the special management protection provided by ACEC	Habitat of the Shoshone sculpin, a candidate endangered species, and Bliss Rapids snail, a candidate endangered species, would receive special management attention provided by ACEC designation.	Habitat of the Shoshone sculpin, a candidate endangered species, and Bliss Rapids snail, a candidate endangered species, would receive special management attention provided by ACEC designation.	Habitat of the Shoshone sculpin, a candidate endangered species, and Bliss Rapids snail, a candidate endangered species, would receive special management attention provided by ACEC designation.	
IINERALS	340 acres of existing material sites and 2,560 acres of possible mineral material sites would be available for transfer from public ownership.	620 acres of existing material sites and 3,543 acres of possible mineral material sites would be available for transfer from public ownership.	540 acres of existing material sites and 2,623 acres of possible mineral material sites would be available for transfer from public ownership.	220 acres of possible mineral material site would be available for transfer from public ownership.	No change from D.
			Mineral material use would be prohibited on 1,264 acres within the proposed Dry Cataracts National Natural Landmark	Mineral material use would be prohibited on 1,264 acres within the proposed Dry Cataracts .National Natural Landmark.	
	All mineral in character lands would be retained in public ownership.	All mineral in character lands would be retained in public ownership.	All mineral in character lands would be retained in public ownership.	All mineral in character lands would be retained in public ownership.	

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)
SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative I
MTNERALS (Cont.)		Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration would be restricted if the recommended 67,989 acres are designated wilderness. These areas would also be closed to new mining claims.	Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration would be restricted if the recommended 87,902 acres are designated wilderness. These areas would also be closed to new mining claims.	Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration would be restricted if the recommended 154,015 acres are designated wilderness. These areas would also be closed to new mining claims.	
		Surface occupancy would be restricted on 9,554 acres in areas of geo- logic interest and ACECs.	Surface occupancy would be restricted on 7,669 acres in areas of geo- logic interest and ACECs.	Surface occupancy would be restricted on 14,261 acres in areas of geo- logic interest and ACECs.	
				2,240 acres of mineral in character lands would be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing.	
AND STATE GOVERNMENTS	These needs would be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to applicable environ-mental review procedures unless specifically excluded in the plan.	These needs would be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to applicable environ-mental review procedures unless specifically excluded in the plan.	These needs would be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to applicable environmental review procedures unless specifically excluded in the plan.	These needs would be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to applicable environ-mental review procedures unless specifically excluded in the plan.	No change from D.
OFF-ROAD VEHICLES (ORVs)	Lands in the Lake Walcott area would be open to ORV use.	· · · · · ·	90,103 acres would be closed to ORV use.	156,226 acres would be closed to ORV use.	No change from D.
	450 acres would be closed to ORV use. ORV use would be limited on 354 acres.	ORV use would be limited on 2,240 acres in the Lake Walcott area.	ORV use would be limited on 2,680 acres. This includes 2,240 acres in the Lake Walcott area.	ORV use would be limited on 3,034 acres. This includes 2,240 acres in the Lake Walcott area.	
	Specific ORV use areas would not be established but could be considered in areas where not	Specific ORV use areas would not be established but could be considered in areas where not specifically excluded in the plan.	Specific ORV use areas would not be established but could be considered in areas where not specifically excluded in the plan.	Specific ORV use areas would not be established but could be considered in areas where not specifically excluded in the plan.	

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)

SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	 Sub-Alternative
RECREATION	One special recreation management area (SRMA) would be managed for intensive recreation use. This area is covered by an existing recreation activity management plan (RAMP).	Three SRMAs would be managed for intensive recreation use. A RAMP would be prepared for each.	Three SRMAs would be managed for intensive recreation use. A RAMP would be prepared for each.	Three SRMAs would be managed for intensive recreation use. A RAMP would be prepared for each.	No change from D.
	No unique areas would be given special protection.	The Vineyard Creek and Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs areas would be designated ACECs to focus management attention on special values.	The Vineyard Creek and Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs areas would be designated ACECs to focus management attention on special values.	The Vineyard Creek and Box Canyon/Blueheart Springs areas would be designated ACECs to focus management attention on special values.	
			Geologic formations associated with the Bonneville Flood on 1,159 acres within the proposed Dry Cataracts National Natural Landmark would be protected from human disturbance that would degrade their naturalness.	Geologic formations associated with the Bonneville Flood on 1,159 acres within the proposed Dry Cataracts National Natural Landmark would be protected from human disturbance that would degrade their naturalness.	
		9,321 acres would be designated Areas of Geologic Interest to be managed for protection of unique geologic formations. A cave management plan would be prepared to guide management of the areas.	6,996 acres would be designated Areas of Geologic Interest to be managed for protection of unique geologic formations. A cave management plan would be prepared to guide management of the areas.	13,578 acres would be designated Areas of Geologic Interest to be managed for protection of unique geologic formations. A cave management plan would be prepared to guide management of the areas.	
CULTURAL RESOURCES	450 acres in the Devil's Corral and Vineyard Creek area would be closed to ORV use to protect resources, including cultural resources.	345 acres in Devil's Corral would be closed to ORV use to protect resources, including cultural resources.	345 acres in Devil's Corral would be closed to ORV use to protect resources, including cultural resources.	345 acres in Devil's Corral would be closed to ORV use to protect resources, including cultural resources.	No change from D.

TABLE 2-1 (Cont.)
SUMMARY OF ISSUES ADDRESSED IN EACH ALTERNATIVE

Issue	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Sub-Alternative
ULTURAL ESOURCES Cont.)		on 2,240 acres in the Cedar Fields area to pro-	Cedar Fields area to pro-	on 2,240 acres in the	
		Surface disturbance in fire suppression would be limited on 2,585 acres to protect cultural resources.	Surface disturbance in fire suppression would be limited on 2,585 acres to protect cultural resources.	Surface disturbance in fire suppression would be limited on 2,585 acres to protect cultural resources.	
		Four Cultural Resource Management Plans would be prepared.	Four Cultural Resource Management Plans would be prepared.	Four Cultural Resource Management plans would be prepared.	